

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4958

UNCLAS LUXEMBOURG 0177

FOR MARSHALL BERG, CU/AF, FROM BRADY

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, LU

SUBJECT: AFRICAN EXCHANGES STUDY

FOLLOWING IS DRAFT OF STATEMENT YOU REQUESTED. IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE TELEPHONE REACTION SAME TIME AS YESTERDAY, SO THAT ANY DESIRED OR NECESSARY CHANGES CAN BE MADE OVER WEEKEND.

RECENT CAREFULLY STRUCTURED IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS WITH SIXTY-EIGHT RETURNED EXCHANGEES IN IVORY COAST, MALI, SIERRA LEONE, CAR, ZAIRE, KENYA, SOUTH AFRICA HAVE PROVIDED CLEAR FRESH EVIDENCE THAT FLEXIBLE AND WISELY PLANNED EXCHANGE PROGRAM VISITS TO U. S. HAVE RESULTED IN

- 1) VIVID REINFORCEMENT OF IMAGE OF AMERICA AS OPEN SOCIETY OF FRIENDLY, HOSPITABLE PEOPLE GENUINELY CONCERNED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THIRD WORLD.
- 2) CREATION OF NOTION, NEW TO MANY INTERVIEWEES, OF HUMANISTIC SOCIETY HARD AT WORK UTILIZING HIGHLY DEVELOPED PROBLEM-SOLVING TECHNIQUES.
- 3) STRONG DESIRE TO COMMUNICATE TO AS MANY AS POSSIBLE WITHIN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, TO CORRECT MISINFORMATION AND SHARE WITH OTHERS LESS FORTUNATE THE UNIQUE ASPECTS OF EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE.
- 4) DEEP APPRECIATION OF AMERICANS AS INDIVIDUALS TO WHOM THEY CAN MEANINGFULLY RELATE EVEN WHILE AT TIMES DISAGREEING WITH ANNOUNCED AMERICAN POLICY.
- 5) REMARKABLY POSITIVE REACTION TO AMERICAN SOCIETY FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED IN WARM, EVEN AFFECTIONATE, TERMS

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INTERVIEWS OF APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS REVEALED THAT EX-

CHANGEES DO NOT NECESSARILY REGARD AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM AS POLITICAL MODEL BUT HAVE RETURNED FROM VISIT WITH HIGH LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING OF AMERICAN ACTIONS AND REACTIONS. THEIR EXPERIENCE HAS LED TO CIRCUMSPECT VIEW OF US ENABLING THEM TO TRANSLATE BOTH DISCUSSIONS AND DEEDS FROM ONE CULTURAL SYSTEM TO ANOTHER, THUS PRODUCING FRESH CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION AND STRONG MOTIVATION TO CREATE ADDITIONAL FUTURE INSTITUTIONAL LINKAGES. THAT THESE LATTER HAVE NOT YET PROLIFERATED IS DUE, IN THEIR VIEW, TO LACK OF FUNDING RATHER THAN TO LACK OF IMAGINATION OR INITIATIVE. INTERVIEWEES DISPLAYED REMARKABLE EAGERNESS, OFTEN EMOTIONAL, TO INTERPRET THEIR AMERICAN EXPERIENCE TO INTERVIEWERS AND TO DESCRIBE SPECIFIC INSTANCES IN WHICH THEY HAVE ALREADY ADAPTED TO LOCAL SITUATIONS METHODOLOGY OBSERVED FOR FIRST TIME DURING THEIR VISIT.

THEY ARE NOT HESITANT TO CREDIT THEIR GRANT AS ORIGIN OF IDEAS THEY ARE PUTTING INTO PRACTICE.

EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN SOUTH AFRICA IS PARTICULARLY DRAMATIC -- IN PART BECAUSE OF ITS VERY EXISTENCE, ALSO BECAUSE IT SERVES AS PROOF POSITIVE OF THE POSSIBILITIES IN MULTI-RACIAL APPROACHES TO SOCIETAL PROBLEMS. INTERVIEWEES THERE DESCRIBED THEIR GRANTS IN FOLLOWING TERMS: " ONLY CHANCE OF MY LIFE TO LIVE FREE FOR SIX WEEKS"; " EXPERIENE THAT MADE ME A BETTER PERSON"; "EXPERIENCE THAT TAUGHT ME BETTER TO DEAL WITH COMPLEX HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS IN THIS COUNTRY"; "MOST ENCOURAGING AND REFRESHING EXPERIENCE OF MY LIFE."

WHILE IT IS THERAPEUTIC ASPECTS OF EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN SOUTH AFRICA THAT ARE MOST VIVID, EXCHANGEES THERE ALSO SEEM TO BE AMONG MOST DEEPLY COMMITTED TO EXTRACTING ALL POSSIBLE FROM WHAT THEY LEARNED AND OBSERVED IN US IN ORDER TO ENRICH LIVES OF THOSE AMONG WHOM THEY MOVE SOCIALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY.

INTERVIEWS ON WHICH ABOVE OBSERVATIONS ARE BASED REVEAL THAT EXCHANGE PROGRAM HAS VERY HIGH PROFILE IN SUBSAHARAN AFRICA AND BECAUSE OF ACTIVE INTEREST IT DEMONSTRATES ON OUR PART IS VERY LIKELY ONE OF MOST EFFECTIVE AND INFLUENTIAL EFFORTS IN WHICH WE ENGAGE ON THAT CONTINENT.

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FOLLOWING ARE ANECDOTES WHICH CAN BE USED ALONG WITH GARNER'S:

TWO GRANTS IN FIELD OF THEATRE RESULTING IN APPRECIATION OF AMERICAN THEATRE TECHNIQUES WILL PROVIDE BACKGROUND FOR CAO TO ENCOURAGE PRODUCTION OF WEST SIDE STORY WITH AMERICAN DIRECTOR AS PART OF LOCAL BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ADMINISTRATION WAS SO IMPRESSED

DURING IV GRANT WITH SIMILAR SCHOOLS IN US THAT HE IS NOW REGULARLY SENDING TWO STUDENTS PER YEAR FOR STUDY AS PART OF DIVERSIFICATION IN TRAINING ABROAD PROGRAM. PREVIOUSLY SUCH STUDENTS HAD STUDIED ONLY IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM. SENIOR ECONOMIST APPEARS TO BE NEAR TO CLOSING DEAL FOR LARGE US INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR WHICH IS RESULT OF CONTACTS MADE IN THIS FIELD DURING IV GRANT. IF FINALIZED GRANTEE WILL EMERGE WITH HIGH PROFILE AND ENHANCED PRESTIGE WHICH HE WILL CREDIT TO EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE. LAW LIBRARIANS WHO VISITED US ON IV GRANTS INVITED AMERICAN EXPERTS FOR TWO WEEK WORKSHOP IN OWN COUNTRY WITH GOVERNMENT PAYING EXPENSES TO HELP REORGANIZE THEIR LIBRARY SYSTEM. GROUP CONTINUES TO BE IN TOUCH WITH AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS AND HOPES CLOSE COLLABORATORS CAN HAVE SAME OPPORTUNITY. SENIOR GOVERNMENT ECONOMIST WHO TRAVELLED WITH CO-WORKER FROM SAME MINISTRY IS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN REVISING SYSTEMS OF ECONOMIC PLANNING BASED UPON KNOWLEDGE ACQUIRED IN US. ALSO, STUDY OF FUNDING FOR INSURANCE COMPANIES IN US BROUGHT ABOUT MORATORIUM ON SETTING UP ANY NEW INSURANCE COMPANIES UNTIL ADEQUATE FINANCIAL GUIDELINES ARE ESTABLISHED. TOP INDIVIDUAL FROM PRIVATE SECTOR WHO MADE EXCELLENT BUSINESS CONTACTS DURING IV GRANT HAS SENT COLLABORATOR FOR FOLLOW-UP VISIT AND EXPECTS TO INVEST HEAVILY IN AMERICAN-MADE AND DESIGNED PRODUCT. JOURNALIST WHO TRAVELLED WIDELY IN US BROUGHT BACK 800 SLIDES, SOME OF WHICH HE IS REPRODUCING FOR USE IN SCHOOL SYSTEM TO SUPPLEMENT TEACHING ON UNITED STATES, AND HAS WRITTEN ACCOMPANYING TEXT TO EXPLAIN TO STAFF AND STUDENTS THE FASCINATION AND DIVERSITY OF AMERICA. PHILLIPS

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